10/8/68

Dear Steve,

It is a real fall dawn, our second frosty morning of the season (have you ever seen a frost, that icywhite on everything, like a too-light coat of snow-have you ever seen snow?), and while I warm with the fresh coffee and the fire in the hearth start to spread some warmth, I'll add a little by the exercise of typing, then I'll get to the reading work I plan.

There is something I wondered if I had told you as I sat on the hearth and watched the flames play up the backlog, when it suddenly occurred to me that I should get a gunrack for the top of the fireplace - and that reminded me of the rifle that has not reached me in eight months. Don't send it now. I'll ask my travel agent to see if we can arrange to check it through on my ticket, having it await me at the terminal in N.O. I think I did ask you to ask one of your Committee, a gun buff, to disarm some of the 6.5 ammo for me. Perhaps we can find a TV use for it out there. The real purpose, however, is to tell you, if I have not, that if Dick Bernsbei should ask for it, please send it to him. He wants to do some work with it. We have two authentic gun buffs among those of us who are my friends and co-workers. Dr. John Nichols, who, aside from doing really significant work as a pathologist (Kansas), has done brilliant ballistics work; and Dick Bernsbeixx who, seemingly inconsistently, went to Canada to avoid the draft and has come up with one of the more interesting theories I am certain will prove out -because of his love of guns. I must tell you of this when I am there. Dick does not have a 6.5 rifle. I've put him in touch with John and I get carbons of their exchanges. John needs his weapons for a while for his own work. He will then let Dick have one. I've told Dick to get in touch with you if he wants mine before then.

On Rose, and the obvious inference I am excessively paranoid: I work with not fewer than three CIA people and the brother of one, regularly. It is not that at all. Because of my efforts to help a CIA man last winter I had the use of a car, free, last time I was in NO.O. This yarn, too, may interest you. I'd like to tell it to you when some trustworthy movie people are around, for the guy involved has a first-person story I have largely on tape (for his protection, not my use) that should, today, make an exciting moving picture. There are two Bay of Pigs veterans who help me, and at least one still getting CIA money.